

approved 4/11/2011

Oconee County Library Board
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

January 24, 2011

(originally scheduled for January 10, 2011 – postponed due to inclement weather)

The meeting of the OCLB was called to order by Chairman Brian Hawkins. Members present included Art Zimmerman, Susan Brodrick, Penny Mills, Philip Brown, Kelly Holt, Janet Stratton, Deann Craft, Scott Gordon, Debbie Wagner, Pat Hallow. Also present were, Kathryn Ames, Donna Brumby, and Jackie Elsner. The members of the Board (old and new) went around the table and introduced themselves. The Board extended a welcome to new members Scott Gordon, Debbie Wagner, Penny Mills, and Philip Brown. Brian Hawkins called for the approval of the October minutes. Art Zimmerman made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Pat Hallow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no public comments to report.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

Jackie Elsner started her comments by highlighting the incredible efforts by the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale. The 2010 sale raised \$15,000! It was noted that the book sale raised \$9,000 in 2009 and \$6,000 in 2008.

HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS

Laura Stiles (Bogart) resigned in November and LuVerne Hoover (Oconee) resigned in December.

Sarah Colombo (Oconee) was hired in November and Tim Hannon (Bogart) was hired in December.

All staff attended Staff Development Day at the Oconee County Civic Center on November 11. Jessie Johnson and Jackie Elsner took part in a session on Promoting Summer Reading Programs in Schools. Several staff participated in training throughout the quarter both in person and through webinars.

OCONEE

The Young Adult Department's Third Annual Haunted House attracted 297 visitors this year. Younger children (accompanied by adults) contributed to the higher attendance. Miss Jessie held another library sleepover for teddy bears in November. Twenty-two bears attended for a weekend of stories and library activities. The Seed Pod kiosk was delivered to the Children's Area on December 29. There are three features left to be installed by the county before the installation is complete. It is available for use even without the remaining features. Gift donations during the "Give A Gift to the Library 2010" campaign totaled \$429 in December. Memorial donations for Billie Brown totaled \$1200.

The Adult Services Area was also rearranged during December. Janet Stratton mentioned that she noticed the changes and was struck by how much lighter everything looks and how it seems that we are showing off more books with the new arrangement.

BOGART

Cynthia Jameson presented her America's White Table program to students at Colham Ferry and Rocky Branch Elementary. Cynthia also visited Colham Ferry and Malcolm Bridge Elementary schools in December to tell stories to several grades. The annual Breakfast with Santa hosted 109 children.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kathryn thanked the Oconee Friends of the Library for all their support. Financially, Oconee County is in "good shape" although there will be further cuts in the next fiscal year. The proposed cuts include a 9% further reduction for public libraries and the Board of Regents which will impact the courier service, summer reading programs, and cataloging department. Kathryn encouraged members to take a few minutes and drop a line to Hank Huckaby and Bill Cowsert to ask them to restore funding of library materials. Oconee County is one of the few libraries where circulation has gone up this year. We have a lot of new books thanks to the Friends of the Libraries.

Currently, we are at 50% of our budget for this fiscal year. Kathryn also reminded the Board that any Oconee County funds left at the end of the fiscal year roll over into the Oconee County account.

Public Library Hot Dog Day will be held on Thursday, January 27 at the State Capitol. Georgia Library Association Legislative Day will be held on February 14. Our region is focused on the Royston Library and it is important that we support regional projects. The only library included in the Governor's budget this year is the Twiggs County Library which was destroyed. Details on GLA Legislative Day were not available. Kathryn will pass that information along when it becomes available.

The Staff Development Day held in November was in conjunction with the Uncle Remus Library System and the Piedmont Regional Library System. The Oconee County Civic Center was used free of charge (Big Thanks!) and the library systems saved several hundred dollars by combining the staff training sessions.

Kathryn also made a request to the Board in regards to the renovations at the Athens Regional Library on Baxter Street. Kathryn proposed moving the Technical Services Department to the Oconee County Library for approximately a year and a half while the renovations take place. To sweeten the deal, she offered the services of one full-time staff member who would report to the Oconee Branch Manager. Janet Stratton moved to accept this request and Art Zimmerman seconded the motion.

Kathryn informed the Board about a new Regional policy where all fines and fees must be paid before you can renew your library card. A patron can have up to \$10 of fines on their card and continue to check out library materials however, everything must be paid before the card can be renewed.

The new version of PINES should be available next week. There is still no acquisition system built into the new version, so libraries are still doing book orders manually. This process is extremely time consuming, but there is hope that a later update will include an acquisition system.

In developing the annual report, Kathryn noted that 45% of Oconee County residents have a library card. Attendance, circulation, and reference requests are also higher than the state average.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES REPORTS

Oconee County Library Friends

The third annual Used Book Sale was a huge success. The library's rooms were not able to hold the large amount of donations, so the sale was moved to Rocket Hall courtesy of the Oconee County Arts Foundation. A \$15,000 donation was presented to the library at the Annual Meeting and Dinner in November. The 2011 Used Book Sale will be held at the Oconee County Civic Center for one week. The Civic Center is allowing the Friends of the Library to use the Civic Center at no charge.

Bogart Library Friends

The Friends of the Bogart Library held a give-a-way of a Gingerbread Pirate House (created and donated by Jackie Elsner) in December. A total of \$63 was donated to the Bogart gift account. The Bogart Library Friends are also running a used bookstore next to City Hall for a few hours a week. They are receiving about \$100 a month from this endeavor.

OLD BUSINESS

The seed pod kiosk has been delivered and is installed and functional. There are a few installations left but they will be installed shortly.

In October, the Board approved a \$5 charge for proctoring exams at the library. Jackie looked into this item some more and found that other sites are charging around \$30 for the same service. This includes faxing, postage, etc. Jackie asked the board to approve changing the fee to \$30 for test proctoring. Janet brought up issues with test proctoring and asked what responsibility the library and Board would have. After discussion, Jackie said she would look into the issues further. Janet moved that we table the question until the next meeting when we have more information. We will continue to operate under the \$5 fee until a final decision has been made.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Studdard has resigned from the Library Board. In light of his resignation, there is an opening for a third member on the Regional Library Board. Someone from Oconee County is needed to attend the quarterly meetings. Susan Brodrick tentatively volunteered to fill the opening.

Scott Gordon volunteered to serve on the Finance Committee.

Jackie discussed the preparations for the budget request to the Oconee County Board of Commissioners. The Oconee County Board of Commissioners will entertain the budget schedule in January. Jackie discussed the timetable and the different hearings that are attended. Bogart does not require a hearing.

There will be trustee training held on May 12. Lyn Hopper will lead the free training. Kathryn will send more information to the Board when she receives it.

A book from the Bob Smith Civil War collection was displayed to the Board. The books, purchased in his honor will include a bookplate. There will be a certificate on display in the new book section. Jackie will send Bob Smith a letter and generate some publicity for this collection.

The next meeting of the Oconee County Library Board is scheduled for April 11, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Bogart Public Library.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly Holt, Secretary, OCLB

approved 7/11/11

Oconee County Library Board
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April 11, 2011

The meeting of the OCLB was called to order by Secretary Kelly Holt. Chair Brian Hawkins was running late. Members present included Art Zimmerman, Kelly Holt, Janet Stratton, Deann Craft, Scott Gordon, Debbie Wagner, Pat Hallow, and Robert Wyatt. Also present were, Kathryn Ames, Donna Brumby, and Jackie Elsner. Kelly Holt called for the approval of the January minutes. The minutes were approved without corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no public comments to report.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS

Steve Armour joined the staff of the Oconee County Library as a part-time Circulation Assistant on January 24th.

All staff of the Oconee County Libraries were trained on AED defibrillator usage by the Oconee County Fire & Emergency Management staff on February 8. Each library now has an AED defibrillator.

OCONEE

The Annual Genealogy Lock-In attracted 28 genealogists on January 21. The Oconee County Library Friends provided supper and snacks.

The Oconee County Library launched a Facebook page for the Adult Services area. This page now joins the Oconee Children's and Young Adult pages.

Children's Services participated in percentage night fundraisers with Chick-fil-A and Your Pie. These events brought in \$133.06 for the Children's Area.

Lonna Vines (Young Adult staff) represented the library at Parent College, held at Oconee Middle School on March 26. She provided on-site library card registration, plus information on young adult programs and services.

Mike Kastellec presented two TechTips classes on EBooks and EBook readers.

BOGART

Cynthia Jameson visited Westminster Christian Academy and Kids Nest Daycare.

On February 12 Andy Hollums presented a young adult program on Cake Pops sponsored by the Friends of the Bogart Library.

Young Adult author William j. (sic) Barry visited on March 26 with his book, Sebastian and the Afterlife. The Bogart Junior Women's Club sponsored and served refreshments.

Cynthia Jameson presented her "Stagecoach" program to fourth graders at Oconee County Elementary School, Rocky Branch, Colham Ferry, and Malcolm Bridge.

OCONEE AND BOGART

On Saturday, February 26, both Oconee and Bogart Libraries hosted professional storyteller Ruben Haller, performing as THE CAT IN THE HAT. This event was sponsored by the Oconee County Library Friends and the Friends of the Bogart Library. The event promoted Read Across America on the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The Oconee Library had 135 attendees and the Bogart Library had 87 attendees.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2011

This year, the theme of the Summer Reading Program is "One World, Many Stories." Jesse Johnson spearheaded a literacy initiative called "Oconee Reads." The library will encourage everyone in Oconee County to read the same book – Greg Mortenson's Three Cups of Tea. There is a young reader's edition and a picture book version of this adult book, so families can share this book together. The library will also offer programs related to the book throughout the summer.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At this point in the fiscal year, we should be at 75% of our budget. Currently, we are at 96%. Kathryn explained the reason for this is that the City of Bogart distributes its funds in April and so we should be in great shape.

Kathryn also pointed out that we have spent 0% of our advertising budget. We have been getting a great response from the webpage and have not had to spend money to advertise vacancies. Kathryn also announced that Mike Kastellec will be leaving in July to take a two-year position at North Carolina State. He has just completed his MLIS from Valdosta State University.

The last day of the legislature is Thursday, April 14. Nothing is final yet, but we are probably looking at a 5% reduction. The 5% would be in addition to the 12% reduction we have already had. Kathryn is also hoping that the funding for the Royston Library remains on the table. Janet Stratton asked if there were restrictions as to how the libraries deal with the 5% cut. That decision would come from the state library and there haven't been any directives yet. However, all vacancies are frozen until further notice.

Lyn Hopper will talk about the basics of being a library trustee on May 12th. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by April 29th. If there isn't enough response, the event will be cancelled.

Kathryn reminded everyone that if they had any questions or would like specifics on the budget, please contact her with questions. Her extension is 333.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES REPORTS

Oconee County Library Friends

The Oconee County Library Friends contributed \$300 for the Reuben Haller CAT IN THE HAT program and \$600 for the Summer Reading regional contribution. Donna Brumby attended the March 14th meeting.

Bogart Library Friends

The Friends of the Bogart Library contributed to several programs this quarter. The Friends contributed \$300 for the Reuben Haller CAT IN THE HAT program, \$600 for the Summer Reading regional contribution, in addition to paying \$200 for DVDs, books, a play mat, and toys. The Friends also paid for food and supplies for the Cake Pops program.

Chair Brian Hawkins arrived and took over his duties of presiding at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed the issue of proctoring exams in the library. The Athens Clarke County Library provides a room, receives the exam, but does not sit with the student or sequester the student. That is currently what we are doing at the Oconee County Library. Jackie proposed that if the Board allows the Oconee County Library to continue to proctor exams we charge \$30 instead of \$5. Robert Wyatt moved to accept that request and Art seconded. The Board approved the fee change.

NEW BUSINESS

Jackie encouraged board members to attend the budget hearings in front of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners, the Oconee County Board of Education, and the City of Watkinsville. On April 18 we will have five minutes with the Oconee County Board of Education and on May 11 we will participate in the City of Watkinsville meeting at 6 pm.

We will stick to the budget presented in February. The County and the Board of Education have to wait until the tax digest is announced. Unless there is a problem, the budget should be fine.

The Athens Regional Library System Board Meeting will be held at the Oconee County Library on July 21, 2011. Janet Stratton encouraged other board members to attend and to see what happens at these meetings.

Kathryn noted that the Zoo Atlanta passes have been very popular. After checking out and watching a DVD, a free pass is issued which is good for a family of four. We are hoping to get extra DVDs.

Donna mentioned that the Talking Book Center would be moving to the Oconee County Libraries during the renovation, not the Technical Services area, as was mentioned in the January minutes.

The next meeting of the Oconee County Library Board is scheduled for July 11, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Oconee County Library.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly Holt, Secretary, OCLB

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July 11, 2011

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PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments to report. A reporter from the Oconee Enterprise was there to cover part of the meeting.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS

Mike Kastellec's last day was June 15.

Carrie Norris started as the temporary Children's Summer Assistant (12 weeks) on May 12.

Mary Wood and Lonna Vines (Young Adult staff) attended the Summer Reading Program Share-A-Rama on April 12.

The staff from the Talking Book Center gave an orientation to all Oconee staff in May.

Jackie Elsner attended PINES Circulation training, the GPLS workshop on Library Trustee Training, and a webinar: What's new in audio books.

Sarah Colombo attended a webinar entitled: GALILEO on NoveList

OCONEE

Valerie Guest presented a Civil War Medicine program on April 2. Fourteen adults attended.

The Talking Book Center moved to the Oconee County Library from the Athens-Clarke County Library on April 18.

The rearrangements in the Adult Service area of the library have been completed.

Two new AWE computers for children's software and games were purchased. One for Oconee and one for Bogart.

Jessie Johnson visited thirteen Oconee County classes to promote the Summer Reading Program in May.

Jackie Elsner visited one classroom, and told stories at Colham Ferry Elementary School Literature Day, May 5.

Star Wars Sunday on June 19 attracted 485 people. Volunteers from the 501st Star Wars Group performed in costume. This program was sponsored by the Children's and Young Adult Areas. They will be coming back in July.

BOGART

Cynthia Jameson visited Westminster Christian Academy twice and Kids Nest Daycare.

Bunny Stories and crafts on April 13 had thirty-two attendees.

Cynthia Jameson visited six schools to promote the Summer Reading Program, including three Oconee County Elementary Schools: Rocky Branch, Colham Ferry, and Malcolm Bridge.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2011

1429 children have registered for the Summer Reading Program in Oconee. 559 of those children registered in June.

267 children and 115 Young Adults registered for the Summer Reading Program in Bogart. 127 of those children/young adults registered in June.

"Animal Crackers" puppet show attracted 124 attendees in Oconee and 86 in Bogart.

Drumming with Dr. Arvin Scott attracted 111 attendees in Oconee and 126 in Bogart.

"The New Adventures of Brer Rabbit" puppet show by David Stephens attracted 290 attendees in Oconee and 106 in Bogart.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kathryn stated we have received 99.32% of our operating budget as we close out the fiscal year. We have expended 92.16% of our budget which accounts for turnover and resignations.

Kathryn also discussed how any money not spent this year will roll over into next year.

In May, Lyn Hopper presented her library trustee training class. Three important roles that trustees have are fundraising, advocacy to the whole community, and planning. Since our strategic plan is about to expire, we need to start thinking about planning.

The Athens library has new walls and the contractors are about to take out the front of the library. So far the construction is going well. Construction should continue for the next year.

The Madison County library is expected to be finished in December 2011.

Each library in the Athens Regional Library System received \$750.00. The Watkinsville Library purchased lightweight tables.

A \$20,000 grant was awarded to the library and a Honda Fit was purchased.

Kathryn expressed her gratitude to the Friends of the Libraries in Watkinsville and Bogart. Their support has been "amazing."

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES REPORTS

Oconee County Library Friends

The Oconee County Library Friends continue to accept books and media for their annual book sale in September. The board was reminded that they do not accept textbooks, magazines, or encyclopedias for the book sale. This year, the Oconee County Civic Center is donating the use of the Civic Center for the book sale. A third storage unit has been ordered for July. The donations have already exceeded the 2010 numbers. The Friends meet twice a week to sort donations. Feel free to come by and volunteer your time.

Family Fun Day on May 21 has 250 children and 400 adults attend. This kicked off the Summer Reading Program and the book donation drive.

Bogart Library Friends

The Friends of the Bogart Library had a book and bake sale from May 19-May 21 to celebrate the first anniversary of the Friends of the Bogart Library Book Store. They raised \$160.00 in those three days. The Friends also met their goal of raising \$1000 during the first year of the book store.

The June mail campaign by the Friends of the Bogart Library netted \$340.00. They also sold popsicles after summer programs at the Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board was informed of the budget cuts that have hit the libraries. A total of \$48,500 has been cut from the library budget. There has also been one full-time employee reduction. The board was presented with four scenarios provided by the Finance Committee for fiscal year 2012 that incorporated the budget cut. All scenarios included the following staff reductions: 1 full-time staff member from Watkinsville. 1 part-time (12 hour per week) staff member from Bogart, 1 part-time (5 hour per week) staff member from Bogart. The two Bogart positions were resignations and the staff members will not be replaced. This accounts for a \$43,824.57 reduction in staff costs. This left a difference of \$4,675.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to accept scenario 2.

Scenario 2

Close Bogart on Saturday.

Close Watkinsville on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 6-9 pm

Reassign 12 hours of part-time staffers to some duties of Adult Services

These 12 hours will come from the removal of two three-hour shifts on Tuesday night, plus two three-hour shifts on Thursday night.

Hire one part-time (17 hour per week)/\$9.00 per hour Adult Services - \$8,564.63

Using this scenario we would need to pull \$13,239.63 from the reserve.

This was a difficult decision for the Board, but scenario 2 affected both libraries evenly and ensured that a library was open every night. These changes will go into effect on August 1.

The Board also agreed to raise the fee for black and white printing from 10 cents per page to 25 cents per page starting August 1.

Charging a maintenance fee for using the auditorium was also mentioned for discussion at a future meeting.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee had a request to reconsider a short story "Barcelona 1975" in a compilation of short stories by Colm Toibin entitled The Empty Family. The Committee recommended that the book remain on the shelves in the Adult Fiction section. The book in question was critically acclaimed and while the story did include graphic sexual passages, the rest of the book did not. The Library Board voted unanimously to leave the book on the shelves.

Debbie Wagner, Pat Hallow and Robert Wyatt volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee for Board officers. They will need a slate of candidates by the October meeting. The terms of office begin in January.

There is a meeting of the Athens Regional Library System Board meeting July 21 at the Watkinsville library.

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The Athens library has new walls and the contractors are about to take out the front of the library. So far the construction is going well. Construction should continue for the next year.

The Madison County library is expected to be finished in December 2011.

Each library in the Athens Regional Library System received \$750.00. The Watkinsville Library purchased lightweight tables.

A \$20,000 grant was awarded to the library and a Honda Fit was purchased.

Kathryn expressed her gratitude to the Friends of the Libraries in Watkinsville and Bogart. Their support has been "amazing."

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES REPORTS

Oconee County Library Friends

The Oconee County Library Friends continue to accept books and media for their annual book sale in September. The board was reminded that they do not accept textbooks, magazines, or encyclopedias for the book sale. This year, the Oconee County Civic Center is donating the use of the Civic Center for the book sale. A third storage unit has been ordered for July. The donations have already exceeded the 2010 numbers. The Friends meet twice a week to sort donations. Feel free to come by and volunteer your time.

Family Fun Day on May 21 has 250 children and 400 adults attend. This kicked off the Summer Reading Program and the book donation drive.

Bogart Library Friends

The Friends of the Bogart Library had a book and bake sale from May 19-May 21 to celebrate the first anniversary of the Friends of the Bogart Library Book Store. They raised \$160.00 in those three days. The Friends also met their goal of raising \$1000 during the first year of the book store.

The June mail campaign by the Friends of the Bogart Library netted \$340.00. They also sold popsicles after summer programs at the Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board was informed of the budget cuts that have hit the libraries. A total of \$48,500 has been cut from the library budget. There has also been one full-time employee reduction. The board was presented with four scenarios provided by the Finance Committee for fiscal year 2012 that incorporated the budget cut. All scenarios included the following staff reductions: 1 full-time staff member from Watkinsville. 1 part-time (12 hour per week) staff member from Bogart, 1 part-time (5 hour per week) staff member from Bogart. The two Bogart positions were resignations and the staff members will not be replaced. This accounts for a \$43,824.57 reduction in staff costs. This left a difference of \$4,675.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to accept scenario 2.

Scenario 2

Close Bogart on Saturday.

Close Watkinsville on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 6-9 pm

Reassign 12 hours of part-time staffers to some duties of Adult Services

These 12 hours will come from the removal of two three-hour shifts on Tuesday night, plus two three-hour shifts on Thursday night.

Hire one part-time (17 hour per week)/\$9.00 per hour Adult Services - \$8,564.63

Using this scenario we would need to pull \$13,239.63 from the reserve.

This was a difficult decision for the Board, but scenario 2 affected both libraries evenly and ensured that a library was open every night. These changes will go into effect on August 1.

The Board also agreed to raise the fee for black and white printing from 10 cents per page to 25 cents per page starting August 1.

Charging a maintenance fee for using the auditorium was also mentioned for discussion at a future meeting.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee had a request to reconsider a short story "Barcelona 1975" in a compilation of short stories by Colm Toibin entitled The Empty Family. The Committee recommended that the book remain on the shelves in the Adult Fiction section. The book in question was critically acclaimed and while the story did include graphic sexual passages, the rest of the book did not. The Library Board voted unanimously to leave the book on the shelves.

Debbie Wagner, Pat Hallow and Robert Wyatt volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee for Board officers. They will need a slate of candidates by the October meeting. The terms of office begin in January.

There is a meeting of the Athens Regional Library System Board meeting July 21 at the Watkinsville library.

The next meeting of the Oconee County Library Board is scheduled for October 10, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Bogart Public Library.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly Holt, Secretary, OCLB

approved 1/9/2012

Oconee County Library Board

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

October 10, 2011

The meeting of the OCLB was called to order by Chair Brian Hawkins. Members present included Penny Mills, Philip Brown, Brian Hawkins, Janet Stratton, Kelly Holt, Debbie Wagner, Deann Craft, Susan Brodrick, and Scott Gordon. Absent were Art Zimmerman, Robert Wyatt, Pat Hallow. Also present were Kathryn Ames, Donna Brumby, and Jackie Elsner. Brian Hawkins called for the approval of the July minutes. The minutes were approved without corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments to report.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS

Tim Staudt started on July 11 as Oconee County Computer and Information Technology Specialist.

Carrie Norris resigned at the conclusion of her temporary position (July 31).

Helene and Tim Hannon moved to Oregon. Their hours were part of the budget cuts.

Hayley Cox and Steve Armour resigned in August to take full-time jobs at the UGA Libraries.

The Adult Services position (part-time) was filled by Sarah Colombo, who had worked as a library assistant.

Four library assistant positions were available. Jackie Elsner and Evelyn Knaft conducted eight job interviews. Tauna Ruiz started on August 15. Three new part-time library assistants started in early September: Mary Ann Mauney, Liz Lord, and Lindsay Coleman.

Mary Wood resigned to take a Youth Services Librarian position in the Live Oak Regional Library System. Her last day is October 10, 2011.

OCONEE

July

Star Wars Sunday was held again on July 24. There were 600 attendees.

Two summer performers were sponsored by the Oconee County Library Friends and the Friends Of The Bogart Library: Amelia Bedelia (Amy Beachum) and magician, Todd Key.

Jackie Elsner told Cherokee Legends in nine libraries as part of the Summer Reading Program.

The Adult Summer Reading Program featured Terry Kay on Saturday, July 9 through a sponsorship of a Literary Event Grant and the Oconee Library Friends.

September

Byron Herbert Reece, Mountain Singer program presented by Jackie Elsner on Sept. 26 to ten adults.

Young Adult Anime Club met for the first time on September 21 with five teens.

Grandparents Tea and Tell was on September 10 with eight participants.

For Banned Books Week the Oconee County Library wrapped Adult, Young Adult, and Children's books in white paper with a simple description of the reason the book was challenged or banned. Some reasons were "inappropriate content" or "foul language." The titles of these books are revealed upon check out.

BOGART

Summer performers Keith Karnok and Wendy Bennett were a big hit.

Bogart Library teens enjoyed making time capsules during the month of July.

Library Hours Change

August

August was the month that the county budget cuts brought a reduction in service hours: 9% at the Oconee County Library and 17% at the Bogart Library. August Circulation figures for both libraries show a reduction of 8% in Bogart and 7% in Oconee. September circulation figures show a reduction of 7% in Bogart and 5% in Oconee.

The Oconee County Library staff is reminding patrons that the library closes at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Computers display a closing message at ten minutes to 6 on those nights. There are lots of signs placed around the library and at the front door. A new sign was purchased for the side of the book drop that faces the Health Department to make sure patrons coming in from both sides of the book drops are informed of the changes in hours.

Increased Copy Fees

The cost of black and white copies increased to 25 cents on August 1. This brought in an additional \$337.00 of revenue.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kathryn began by praising the libraries for the monthly activities that are provided. She also wanted to thank the Friends of the Oconee County Libraries for all of their efforts. Not only does Oconee benefit from their efforts, but the regional system also benefits.

At a meeting at the Franklin County Library, the Assistant State Librarian came to talk. One of the issues he talked about were the Georgia Library Laws that provide a legal basis to what we (the Library Board) does.

Kathryn stated we are 25% of the way through the fiscal year. Oconee County is in great shape. Kathryn reminded the Board that if we have any specific questions on the budget, we can always call the regional office.

The State Auditor will be coming in November to conduct a regular audit.

The State Library has asked each system to reduce their budget by 2%. Because of the incredible support of the Library Friends and the amount of gifts we receive, we were told to cut the materials budget. The Regional Board will be discussing these cuts on Thursday, October 13.

The Friends of Georgia Libraries will be having a fall workshop on October 22 in Covington. Clare Auwater will be on a panel about hosting author events. This is a good opportunity for members of the Library Friends to join the State Friends organization.

At the next Oconee County Library Board Meeting we will start planning for the next couple of years. There are 17 service areas (gold sheet) and we will need to indicate which ones we feel are the highest priority. We will discuss at the January meeting. Please choose three to four that you feel are of the highest priority.

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Bogart Library Friends

The Friends of the Bogart Library Bookstore made \$360.00 in August.

The Bogart Fall Festival is on hiatus this year.

OLD BUSINESS

New closing hours

There have been few complaints. Brian asked the Board if there was any desire to change the decision, giving the Board an opportunity for discussion in light of the few complaints. There were no suggested changes. As the economy improves, we will revisit the changes in library hours.

Nominating Committee

Debbie Wagner called all the current officers on the Library Board and they all agreed to continue in their roles for the next year.

Brian Hawkins will remain as Chair

Susan Brodrick will remain as Vice-Chair

Kelly Holt will remain as Secretary

The Board voted and the current officers were approved for another year.

NEW BUSINESS

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Art Zimmerman has decided to retire from the Library Board. The Board presented two books with bookplates to honor his service on the Library Board. The books were E is for Ethics by Ian James Corlett and Nearly Nonsense : Hoja Tales from Turkey by Rina Singh and Farida Zaman.

With Art's retirement from the Board, a member is needed to take his place on the Regional Library Board. Kelly Holt agreed to do this.

Brian asked if any Board members were interested in serving on any of the other Library Board committees. Debbie Wagner expressed interest in the Intellectual Freedom Committee and Janet Stratton expressed interest in the Personnel Committee. Both members were added to those committees.

Strategic Planning

In January the Board will start to review community issues and how the library can meet those issues. The Board will look at target audiences while the staff of the Oconee County Libraries will look at goals and objectives.

We will also need to talk about current construction needs. We cannot expand in Watkinsville; however we are able to expand in Bogart. We will need to talk to people about construction costs, etc. Are there other areas of the county we need to look at? Do we need to add outreach services?

The next meeting of the Oconee County Library Board is scheduled for January 9, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. at the Oconee County Library.

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